

No 88

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An

Inaugural Dissertation

on

Hydrothorax

by

John Washington Cropper
of Virginia

Read March 22^d 1823

March 3^d 1823.

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Hydrothorax

Dropsy is defined to be a putrefactual collection of serum or watery fluid in the cellular substance or different cavities of the body. It receives different appellations according to the particular situation in which it is lodged, when located in the cavity of the chest it is called *Hydrothorax* or *Hydrops Pectoris*, it is of this form that I propose to treat

This is a disease of ancient date, and has been placed among the opprobria Medicorum of the Healing-art. among many others we have the high authority of Galien who says it is incurable, altho' not purposed to go so far, I can readily believe that it is one of those diseases, in which we will often find our remedies unavailing, and in some cases not even palliative, yet in some instances we have checked its progress and in a few cases effected an entire cure

Dropsies are among those diseases, which are extremely difficult to manage, and *Hydrothorax*

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has generally been considered one of its most in-
tractable forms, whether it is the most unman-
ageable of the dyspepsia or not, there exists the direct
testimony of Paracelsus, That it was so
was almost universally admitted by the Ancients,
and even to a late period, but since then has been
a revolution in its treatment, it is considered as
that form in which we shall be less baffled in
our attempts to cure. The discrepancy of sentiment
can only be reconciled by supposing the present
plan of treatment is more successful than that
formerly adopted.

The Symptoms characteristic of Hypos-
thorax are difficulty of Breathing with
oppression of the Breast, particularly on motion
or whilst in a horizontal posture, sudden start-
lings from sleep with palpitation, Anxiety, inquietude,
pulse, pale countenance, Oedema of lower extremities
cough, sometimes Spasmodic, and a diminution of
the number of Urine which if allowed to stand

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reference, etc. At
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and long contrast
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deposits a pink coloured sediment, besides these symptoms the patient when performing certain motion is sensible of evident fluctuation in the cavity of the Thorax

Corrissart, considered fluctuation (which may be perceived by striking the Sternum whilst in an erect position) as the most certain and distinguishing symptom

The late ingenious Bichat mentions that all the symptoms are aggravated by pressure on the abdomen and this he considers as the best diagnostic by attending to the symptoms before enumerated conjunctly with this last Hydrothorax may be distinguished

The Diseases with which it is most liable to be confounded, are, Asthma, Emphyema, Aneurism Pleuritis and organic affections of the Heart &c. &c. It causes an indulgence in spirituous liquors, excess and long continued evacuations, Schismosity of the Liver, Splenitis, Dropsies, and other signs.

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of the abdomen, also promoting disease, as Saliva-
rellata, Asthma, Pulmonary Consumption, Dysen-
tery, Diarrhoea, Gout, some of the Exanthemata
especially Scarlatina, suppression of accustomed
evacuation or eruption of some eruption, and
numerous other causes, among the most frequent causes
(the last generally mentioned by writers) still con-
spiring and producing catarrh.

The manner in which Pleurothorax is produced by
the affections is very obvious. The lungs in both
being in a state of inflammation and consequently
engorged, the circulation endeavoring to relieve itself
from this state of oppression throws out effusions, which
the absorbents not taking up collect constituting the
disease in question.

In every cavity of the body a fluid is continually
thrown out by the exhalants which is taken up by
the absorbents. Dropsy may therefore be produced in
two ways: first by exhalants throwing out of more
than a usual quantity, while the absorbents are

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It was not, I believe, immediately recalled, but it
occurred to me that the person in question was



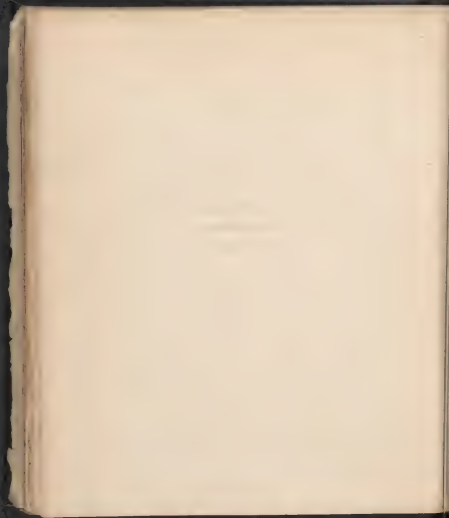
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The next remedy will present itself and this one we will take out of the range of counter-indication and the average "free medicine" man will find it a useful one. It is almost necessary to this part of the study of the disease to be fully apprised of the value of the various remedies and their application to the case.

The Commission of the Secretary of the
 State of New York, in the
 year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
 eighty and of our Independence the hundred and
 eighth.

I am, Sir,
 Yours, &c.
 J. H.

Later collections were continued on hills of
bluish limestone, & the same species were



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Charles is now a nervous wreck, as the last
year has been. The mother is a natural hypochond-
riac, and is extremely nervous, when there is a sensation
of fear, or anxiety of any kind.

2. The same is true of the other two. The first is a very good one, and the second is a very good one. The third is a very good one, and the fourth is a very good one. The fifth is a very good one, and the sixth is a very good one. The seventh is a very good one, and the eighth is a very good one. The ninth is a very good one, and the tenth is a very good one. The eleventh is a very good one, and the twelfth is a very good one. The thirteenth is a very good one, and the fourteenth is a very good one. The fifteenth is a very good one, and the sixteenth is a very good one. The seventeenth is a very good one, and the eighteenth is a very good one. The nineteenth is a very good one, and the twentieth is a very good one. The twenty-first is a very good one, and the twenty-second is a very good one. The twenty-third is a very good one, and the twenty-fourth is a very good one. The twenty-fifth is a very good one, and the twenty-sixth is a very good one. The twenty-seventh is a very good one, and the twenty-eighth is a very good one. The twenty-ninth is a very good one, and the thirtieth is a very good one. The thirty-first is a very good one, and the thirty-second is a very good one. The thirty-third is a very good one, and the thirty-fourth is a very good one. The thirty-fifth is a very good one, and the thirty-sixth is a very good one. The thirty-seventh is a very good one, and the thirty-eighth is a very good one. The thirty-ninth is a very good one, and the fortieth is a very good one. The forty-first is a very good one, and the forty-second is a very good one. The forty-third is a very good one, and the forty-fourth is a very good one. The forty-fifth is a very good one, and the forty-sixth is a very good one. The forty-seventh is a very good one, and the forty-eighth is a very good one. The forty-ninth is a very good one, and the fiftieth is a very good one. The fifty-first is a very good one, and the fifty-second is a very good one. The fifty-third is a very good one, and the fifty-fourth is a very good one. The fifty-fifth is a very good one, and the fifty-sixth is a very good one. The fifty-seventh is a very good one, and the fifty-eighth is a very good one. The fifty-ninth is a very good one, and the sixtieth is a very good one. The sixty-first is a very good one, and the sixty-second is a very good one. The sixty-third is a very good one, and the sixty-fourth is a very good one. The sixty-fifth is a very good one, and the sixty-sixth is a very good one. The sixty-seventh is a very good one, and the sixty-eighth is a very good one. The sixty-ninth is a very good one, and the seventieth is a very good one. The seventy-first is a very good one, and the seventy-second is a very good one. The seventy-third is a very good one, and the seventy-fourth is a very good one. The seventy-fifth is a very good one, and the seventy-sixth is a very good one. The seventy-seventh is a very good one, and the seventy-eighth is a very good one. The seventy-ninth is a very good one, and the eightieth is a very good one. The eighty-first is a very good one, and the eighty-second is a very good one. The eighty-third is a very good one, and the eighty-fourth is a very good one. The eighty-fifth is a very good one, and the eighty-sixth is a very good one. The eighty-seventh is a very good one, and the eighty-eighth is a very good one. The eighty-ninth is a very good one, and the ninetieth is a very good one. The ninety-first is a very good one, and the ninety-second is a very good one. The ninety-third is a very good one, and the ninety-fourth is a very good one. The ninety-fifth is a very good one, and the ninety-sixth is a very good one. The ninety-seventh is a very good one, and the ninety-eighth is a very good one. The ninety-ninth is a very good one, and the hundredth is a very good one.

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still we should not overload the stomach.

Concerning Drinks there was at one time great diversity of sentiment. One set of Physicians forbid the use of fluids altogether, whilst another set allowed them to be drunk very profusely, and even enjoined a considerable quantity to be taken. It was stated by the former, that absolute cure had been effected by abstinence from drinks. It is I believe now fully ascertained that it may be indulged in, moderately, not only with impunity, but with decided utility. It was formerly supposed that drinks were injurious by increasing the watery parts of the blood and thereby encouraging effluvia, but the opinions now prevail, and which seem to be founded on actual observations and experience is that by not allowing fluids, the Kidney became so swelled as to perform their office very imperfectly, and by permitting drinks the Kidneys and stimulus to secrete more copiously and thereby promote absorption and to further the effects.

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besides that it affords relief by gurgling the almost insupportable thirst which attends, but too much however should not be taken at once, for the reasons hereafter mentioned.

The Drinks should consist of water impregnated with tartaric, or citric acid, or any of the vegetable acids. In the acute form of Hydrothorax the patients may as allowed Whisky and water or Gin & water, Sir George Baker, Sir Francis Hillman and Cullen have all witnessed their beneficial effects.

I have now finished the history of the symptoms and treatment of Hydrothorax, which I conceive will apply to the generality of cases as they are usually met with. Like other diseases Hydrothorax is so much modified by various causes that it would be impossible for me at this time to treat of it more fully. I forbear to say more, in the expectation that this imperfect essay written solely in conformity to the regulations of the School may be found to answer the purpose for which it is intended.

An
 Inauguration
 On
 Hydrotho
 By
 George H.
 Of
 New Bedford

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